

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 01116 120828Z

21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 /074 W

----- 098144

R 120645Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5478

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1116

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON CURRENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAG DESCRIBES  
CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN YEMEN  
AS GOOD AND STATES THAT SAUDIS NOW ARE FULLY SUPPORTING  
HAMDI WHICH IS FURTHER "SIGNIFICANT" DEVELOPMENT.  
AL-ASNAG STATED THAT EVERY INDICATION POINTS TO SHAIKH  
AL-AHMAR'S COOPERATION WITH HAMDI. ASNAG ALSO SAID  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANAA 01116 120828Z

THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HELD IN IMMEDIATE

FUTURE BUT THOUGHT SOMETIME OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS. HE ALSO OPINED THAT PRESENT CABINET WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE WITH PERHAPS A FEW CHANGES. BOTH ASNAG AND MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD SAID (ALSO PRESENT) WERE OBVIOUSLY HEARTENED AND ENCOURAGED BY HAMDI'S RECENT MOVES WHICH THEY BOTH SEE AS STRENGTHENING YEMEN'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AT EXPENSE OF BOTH CORRUPT TRADITIONAL SHAIKHS AS WELL AS IRAQI AND SOVIET-SUPPORTED LEFTIST ELEMENTS. ALL SIGNS CONFIRM HAMDI'S PRESENT STRONG POSITION, BUT HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS WILL HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY TO CONVINCE YEMENIS THAT INTERNAL MODERATION AND EXTERNAL RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SAUDIS AND, BY EXTENSION, WITH US IS BENEFICIAL FOR YEMEN. EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF US/SAUDI MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL HELP HAMDI AS WILL CONTINUED US/SAUDI MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. ON MAY 10, AT MY REQUEST, I CALLED ON FOREIGN MIN ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON FOLLOWING HIS RETURN A FEW DAYS BEFORE FROM A SERIES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD. ALSO PRESENT WAS MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDO SAID. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO CURRENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE YEMENI MILITARY EFFECTED BY PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI. (SEE SANAA 1026) ASNAG SAID THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION IN YEMEN IS "GOOD" AND STATED THAT PRESIDENT HAMDI IS IN FULL CONTROL ENJOYING WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM BOTH WITHIN THE ARMY AND THE GENERAL POPULATION.

2. ASNAG CONTINUE THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE ALSO APPARENTLY BEGUN TO APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN YEMEN AND HAVE NOW THROWN THEIR FULL SUPPORT BEHIND HAMDI. ASNAG DESCRIBED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS "SIGNIFICANT." ASNAG ADDED THAT THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR HAS, SINCE HIS RETURN A WEEK AGO, BEEN ACTIVE IN TRYING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PRESIDENT HAMDI AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY SHAIKH AL-AHMAR, WHO LEFT SANAA FOR HIS HOME TOWN ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO WHEN HE SAW THAT HAMDI WAS NOT TO BE DETERRED FROM REMOVING THE ABU LUHUM/ ABU SHUWARIB CLIQUE FROM THE ARMY. ASNAG SAID THAT AL-AHMAR HAS NOW BEEN TOLD BY THE SAUDIS THAT HE MUST SUPPORT HAMDI IF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANAA 01116 120828Z

HE WISHES TO ENJOY ANY FINANCIAL OR MORAL SUPPORT FROM THE SAUDIS. ASNAG ADDED THAT AL-AHMAR HAS APPARENTLY SEEN THE LIGHT AND HAS AGREED TO RETURN TO SANAA. (WE HAVE HEARD FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES THAT HAMDI ACCOMPANIED THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO KHARM, AL-AHMAR'S TRIBAL SEAT, AS A SIGN OF CONCILIATION AND THAT THIS STATESMANLIKE MOVE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING AL-AHMAR AROUND.) ASNAG ALSO INFORMED ME THAT LT COL MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB WAS IN JIDDA A FEW DAYS AGO ON HIS WAY HOME FROM

PEKING AND WAS TOLD BY THE SAUDIS THAT HE SHOULD BEHAVE HIMSELF AND COOPERATE WITH HAMDI.

3. ASNAG AND AHMAD SAID WERE OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY PLEASED AND HEARTENED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. ASNAG AT ONE POINT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO "ALL OF OUR FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF YEMEN DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS" WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL PERIODS WHICH REPUBLICAN YEMEN HAS PASSED THROUGH SINCE THE REVOLUTION. AHMAD PIPED IN TO SAY THAT IN FACT HAMDI'S RECENT MOVES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AS YEMEN'S SECOND REVOLUTION BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME YEMEN'S REPUBLICAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS ASSERTED ITS CONTROL OVER THE DISPARATE ELEMENTS MAKING UP YEMEN'S CURRENT POLITICAL CONSENSUS. AHMAD CONTINUED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT MEANS THAT YEMEN CAN NOW BEGIN TO DEVOTE ITS PRIMARY ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN TO PETTY POLITICAL INFIGHTING BETWEEN VARIOUS MILITARY AND TRIBAL LEADERS WHO ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT.

4. AL-ASNAG SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT EARLY ELECTIONS UNTIL THE CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION FURTHER STABILIZES AND UNTIL "EVERY THING IS READY FOR THESE ELECTIONS". WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS, ASNAG SAID THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MUST FIRST BE PASSED BY THE MAJLIS AL-SHURA AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THE POWER OF CERTAIN NEGATIVE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FORCES MUST BE NEUTRALIZED. ASNAG SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE CORRUPT TRADITIONAL SHIKHS ON ONE HAND AND THE IRAQIS AND THEIR SOVIET FRIENDS ON THE OTHER. ASNAG COMMENTED THAT IN A POOR BACKWARD COUNTRY LIKE YEMEN ONE CANNOT RUSH INTO ELECTIONS UNLESS THE GROUNDWORK IS WELL PREPARED. HE ADDED HE IS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT HAMDI INTENDS TO HAVE ELECTIONS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND OPINED THAT THEY WOULD BE HELD SOMETIME IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANAA 01116 120828Z

IN CONCLUSION ASNAG ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENT CABINET WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE A FEW CHANGES. IN THIS REGARD HE NOTED WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT THE CURRENT MINISTER OF INTERIOR, LTC YAHYA AL-MUTAWAKKIL, WHO IS ALSO A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE ABU LUHUMS, IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT HIS FUTURE AND HAS ASKED ASNAG IF THERE ARE ANY EMBASSIES STILL AVAILABLE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY STILL BE TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT AL-HAMDI AND HIS MILITARY/ CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS HAVE EMERGED ON TOP, EVERY SIGN CURRENTLY POINTS IN THAT DIRECTION. IT IS NOW NECESSARY FOR HAMDI AND HIS REGIME TO DEMONSTRATE BOTH TO THE ARMY AND TO THE PEOPLE THAT YEMEN'S CURRENT POLICY OF INTERNAL POLITICAL MODERATION AND EXTERNAL RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND,

BY EXTENSION, WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL PAY OFF. OBVIOUSLY  
ONE IMMEDIATE MEANINGFUL STEP THAT AMERICAN/SAUDI FRIENDSHIP  
SIGNIFIES MORE THAN FAIR WORDS WOULD BE THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE ALREADY AGREED UPON US/SAUDI PROGRAM FOR THE MODERNIZATION  
OF THE YEMENI ARMY. (WE WILL BE COMMENTING ON JIDDA'S 3236 RE  
THIS SUBJECT BY SEPTEL.) AT THE SAME TIME HAMDI AND HIS  
TECHNOCRAT CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS MUST PRESS FORWARD WITH SUSTAINED  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS. THE GOING WILL BE DIFFICULT  
BUT HAMDI HAS DEMONSTRATED A POLITICAL SKILL AND A PRAGMATIC  
APPROACH WHICH SHOULD STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.  
FOR OUR PART, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THIS  
GOVERNMENT OUR MORAL AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, OUR MATERIAL SUPPORT  
FOR ITS MODERATE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POLICIES. WE SHOULD  
ALSO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE OUR SAUDI FRIENDS TO DO LIKEWISE.  
SCOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANAA01116  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750165-0384  
**From:** SANAA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750561/aaaaccxb.tel  
**Line Count:** 184  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER ON CURRENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAG DESCRIBES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, YE, SA, (AL-ASNAG, ABDULLAH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006